preliminary figures regarding the progress of expenditure, utilisation of Army Budget has not fallen short by around Rs. 1000/- crores.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Registration of New Products in CSD

4723. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Canteen Stores Department is not opening for new products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ony the old registered products get a chance in the CSD;

(c) what steps are proposed to open up the Canteen Stores Department to competition for the benefit of the service personnel; and

(d) the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing provisions for introduction of items in Canteen Stores Department inventory encourage competition, for the benefit of service personnel. The system of introduction of items involves Preliminary Screening by a Committee, Market Survey to ascertain retail rate and acceptability, Price Negotiations by a Committee, Factory Inspection and Hygienic Testing. Requests are considered at various levels, in accordance with the established procedure, for introduction of items and decisions arc taken accordingly.

(d) In view of the answer at (c) above, the question docs not arise.

Clearance to digitize Topo Sheets

4724. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to accord clearance to digitize topo sheets and for permitting NRSA to supply unmasked IRS satellite data for use by the consultants for Natural Hazard Mitigation studies to save lives and properties during floods and cyclone; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?